(a) whether it is a fact that all the State Governments and the Union Territories have been advised to set up Pollution Control Boards to check the menace of pollution; and

(b) if so, how many States have set up such Boards and what are the reasons for not setting up such Boards by the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States are to set up the Boards after adopting the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, in their State Assemblies. Eighteen States have set up Pollution Control Boards after adopting the Act. Tripura has adopted the Act, but has not so far set up a Board. The States of Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim have not yet adopted in the Act, and hence no Pollution Control Boards have been set up in these States. The Act has not also been adopted yet in the three new States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Goa.

Strike in ITDC hotels

1825. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) hotels went on a day's strike on July 23, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are their demands and what measures are being taken by Government to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The employees of ITDC's Delhi based hotels went on one day's strike on 23rd July, 1987.

(b) The main demands were:

(i) to start wage negotiations for the employees of hotel and catering establishments of ITDC;

(ii) release of interim relief to such employees;

(iii) withdrawal of the Employees State Insurance Scheme etc.

The ITDC management had discussed with the unions their demands on 21 July 87. The Unions were informed that the wage negotiations are dependent upon the grant of interim relief presently under the consideration of the Committee appointed by the Govt. and that withdrawal of Employees State Insurance Scheme is not possible being a statutory obligation.

Cleaning of river Ganga

1826. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Attempts to clean Ganga lackadaisical" and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government does not agree with the view that attempts to clean Ganga have been lackadaisical. Till 31st July, 1987 a total of 259 schemes to be taken up in the three states of UP, Bihar and West Bengal under the Ganga Action Plan have been identified in consultation with the state governments.